

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-55. (Cancelled).

56. (Previously Presented) A method of producing liquor, which comprises:

- (a) a step for preparing a saccharified rice liquor, wherein a liquefying reaction is taken place by adding rice and liquefying enzyme to water in order to obtain a liquefied mixture, thereafter a saccharifying reaction is taken place by adding saccharifying enzyme to the resultant liquefied mixture in order to obtain a saccharified rice liquor;
- (b) a first fermentation step for adding rice *koji* and yeast to water and fermenting thereof;
- (c) a second fermentation step for adding rice *koji* and the saccharified rice liquor obtained from the step (a) to the resultant mixture of the first fermentation step and fermenting thereof;
- (d) a third fermentation step for adding the saccharified rice liquor obtained from the step (a) to the resultant mixture of the second fermentation step;
- (e) a separation step for separating liquid by filtering the resultant mixture of the third fermentation step; and
- (f) an oxidation reaction step for conducting an oxidation reaction of the resultant liquid of the separation step in the presence of oxygen.

57. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 56, wherein the oxidation reaction is carried out under irradiation with light.

58. (Original) The method according to claim 57, wherein the oxidation reaction is carried out in the presence of a photosensitizer.

59. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 56, wherein the oxidation reaction is carried out by aeration or blowing oxygen into the reaction system.

60. (Original) The method according to claim 59, wherein the oxidation reaction is carried out under irradiation with light.

61. (Original) The method according to claim 60, wherein the oxidation reaction is carried out in the presence of a photosensitizer.

62. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 56, wherein the yeast is has ferulic acid decarboxylase activity.

63. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 56, wherein the oxidation reaction is carried out in the presence of an enzyme which accelerates the oxidation reaction.

64. (Original) The method according to claim 63, wherein the enzyme is peroxidase.

65. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 56, wherein said liquor is a cooking liquor.

66. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 56 ~~or 83~~, wherein said liquor is *sake*.

67.-84. (Cancelled).

85. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 56, wherein said liquefying enzyme is  $\alpha$ -amylase and said saccharifying enzyme is glucoamylase.